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TUNISIAN PERIODICAL SPECULATES ON CIA PLANS IN CONGO

[The following statements about CIA were contained in an article entitled "Tshombe Is Replacing the UN Troops in the Congo," in the 29 June 1964 issue of the Tunis weekly Jeune Afrique.]

Who is behind Tshombe? The CIA? Is it the secret weapon of the "rebels" or the last resort of a tired regime? Perhaps all of these things are true at the same time, and this is what is so troublesome. Tshombe is exploiting the benefit of the doubt.

America has become too involved in the Congo not to be affected by the ups and downs which stir it. America is to a great extent the CIA. In Washington, up to now, Cyril Adoula has been considered a guarantee of Congo stability. The appearance and then the growth of guerrillas in the provinces, and the impending departure of the UN troops, have undoubtedly strengthened the authority of the Katanga lobby, which has never disbanded. So it seems also with the surprising incident of the American pilots, where we find once again the activity of the CIA.

For some weeks the Department of State had consistently denied that there were any US pilots in the air force which was suppressing the tribal disorders of the Bafulero in the Eastern Congo. A few days ago, however, Washington officials decided to admit that the Leopoldville government had employed several civilian American pilots. However, the US State Department spokesman, Richard Phillips, refused to say whether the department approved this type of private activity or not. Nevertheless, he asserted that no American was taking part in the operational flights.

We have been able to confirm through indirect information that six planes of the T-28 type were recently sent to the Congo and that among the pilots are anti-Castro Cubans. It has also been ascertained that these planes have been modified so that they can be used as bombers, whereas normally they are only training planes.